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Wetland restoration has been underrepresented in Wyoming, and DU is driven to enhance migratory habitat for waterfowl and raise awareness of the importance of the region. Projects like those completed on Table Mountain and Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Areas are seeing waterfowl use and benefiting other species including upland birds like pheasants, and providing public spaces for outdoor recreation. The Wyoming Peaks to Prairie Experience in Lander, Wyoming in September gave DU’s development and conservation staff a chance to stress the significance Wyoming plays as a migration corridor to donors and other interests.

**WY STATE CONTACTS**

For information on DU’s conservation programs:

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For information on event fundraising:

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For information on becoming a Major Sponsor:

Chris Hildebrandt  
Director of Development - MT, ND, WY  
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**GREAT PLAINS REGION**

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

**our mission**

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LEADERS OF DOUGLAS DU CHAPTER GET SOCIAL

Shawn and Barbara Pitman are using Facebook to connect Wyoming DU members and keep followers up-to-date on events. Shawn is the chair of the Douglas Ducks Unlimited Chapter. The couple and their two children live in Glen Rock.

“They always have big plans and big goals and do a great job of achieving them,” said Robert Hathaway, DU regional director in Wyoming.

The Pitmans use Facebook to boost ticket sales and run pre-event raffles. Before the Douglas Chapter event, Barbara posted the raffle announcement for a Henry Big Boy Rifle or $1,000.

“We wished we hadn’t put a cap on the number of raffle tickets because we could have sold a lot more. We made a $5,000 profit on that raffle,” Barbara said.

Barbara shares information about DU’s projects in Wyoming, but also shares the significance of conserving waterfowl habitat to the north and south by posting information from the national DU page.

“People need to understand conservation for waterfowl can’t just happen in their backyard. Conserving waterfowl habitat means going where the ducks go and that is what DU does,” Shawn said.

DU chapters around the state are using Facebook to promote the businesses that underwrite and donate auction items for the events. This way they thank their sponsors, promote the businesses that donate and give previews of auction items to entice people to attend the event and bid.

Find Wyoming Ducks Unlimited on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WYODU.

PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES NAWCA GRANT

With the award of a $100,000 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, Ducks Unlimited and partners will complete work on the Muddy Creek wetland complex in Carbon County, Wyoming. Partners worked for 30 years on this 862-acre complex that is the largest constructed wetland project in the state, creating quality wetlands for waterfowl and other wildlife.

“Small NAWCA grants can be the catalyst to bring partners together and fund the final construction on projects like this one,” said Tom Peterson, DU biologist in Wyoming. Enhancements to Muddy Creek will improve water flows through the wetlands, remove sediment from the stream and control stands of cattails in the wetlands. Once completed, managers will have nine tracts of wetland habitat with a reliable water source and improved water management capabilities. Six of the nine tracts are open to the public for hunting and other recreation.

From the start of this project, the Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD) worked to connect the economic concerns of their constituents with ecological needs of fish and wildlife. Ducks Unlimited and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff are providing technical and financial assistance, additional survey and design, contracting and construction management.

Matching contributions came from LSRCD, Wyoming Wildlife National Resource Trust Fund, Wyoming Water Development Commission, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust and DU.

COLLABORATIVE WETLAND POSITION FURTHERS CONSERVATION PRIORITIES OF PARTNERS

Noelle Smith is working in a unique collaborative venture between the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ducks Unlimited. The position is funded in large part through a Wetland Program Development Grant from the EPA.

“This partnership is another way for Ducks Unlimited to further our conservation priorities in Wyoming while helping our partners pursue theirs,” Smith said.

Smith’s primary focus is on restoration and protection of wetlands, with attention to migratory bird habitat. In addition to improving wetland habitats on state wildlife habitat areas, Smith provides support to Wyoming’s statewide wetland partnership and is helping develop a voluntary restoration and protection program.

Contact information: nsmith@ducks.org or 307-473-3439
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